

IN THE CLAIMS:

1.-10. (cancelled)

11. (new) A method of making a micro-filter device for use in a system in which, at different fluid flows through the device, varying pressure differences (P_d) are permitted, comprising the steps of: determining a minimum cross-section of a restriction required for attaining a given maximum pressure difference (P_2) over the device at a lowest given amount of fluid flow through the device, wherein the restriction allows a minimum amount of fluid flow for by-passing a micro-filter element of the device; limiting the maximum pressure difference varying pressure difference (P_d) to a maximum pressure difference (P_1) given at a largest amount of fluid flow through the device by way of a pressure valve system opening at said maximum pressure difference and creating a second fluid flow by-passing the micro-filter element once said maximum pressure difference (P_1) has been reached.

12. (new) A method according to claim 11, wherein the cross-section of the restriction is within a range of -10% to a cross-section required for attaining said maximum pressure difference (P_2) at said lowest given amount of fluid flow through the device.

13. (new) A method according to claim 11, wherein the cross-section of the restriction is equal to a cross-section required for attaining said maximum pressure difference (P_2) at said lowest given amount of fluid flow through the device.

14. (new) A method according to claim 11, wherein an opening pressure of the valve system is designed to be a pressure difference value which, at said maximum given amount of fluid flow, is within a range of -10% to said maximum pressure difference (P_1) at a largest amount of fluid flow through the device.

15. (new) A method according to claim 11, wherein an opening pressure of the valve system is designed to be a pressure difference value equal to said maximum pressure difference (P1) at a largest amount of fluid flow through the device.

16. (new) A method according to claim 12, wherein an opening pressure of the valve system is designed to be a pressure difference value which, at said maximum given amount of fluid flow, is within a range of -10% to said maximum pressure difference (P1) at a largest amount of fluid flow through the device.

17. (new) A filtering device comprising:
a micro-filter element, axial end faces of which are substantially closed for passage of fluid by axial end face closure mechanisms; an orifice; and a pressure valve system in fluid communication with said orifice for allowing a flow of fluid to by-pass the micro-filter element.

18. (new) A filtering device according to claim 17 wherein at least one of the orifice or the valve system is incorporated into one of said axial end face closure mechanisms.

19. (new) A filtering device according to claim 17, wherein the orifice provides a minimum flow of fluid by-passing the micro-filter element under all operating conditions.

20. (new) A filtering device according to claim 18, wherein the orifice provides a minimum flow of fluid by-passing the micro-filter element under all operating conditions.

21. (new) A filtering device according to claim 17, wherein the valve system provides a further flow of fluid by-passing the micro-filter element when a maximum desired pressure difference over the filtering device is reached.

22. (new) A filtering device according to claim 18, wherein the valve system provides a further flow of fluid by-passing the micro-filter element when a maximum desired pressure difference over the filtering device is reached.

23. (new) A filtering device according to claim 19, wherein the valve system provides a further flow of fluid by-passing the micro-filter element when a maximum desired pressure difference over the filtering device is reached.

24. (new) A filtering device according to claim 17, wherein the orifice is incorporated into a portion of the valve system.

25. (new) A filtering device according to claim 18, wherein the orifice is incorporated into a portion of the valve system.

26. (new) A filtering device according to claim 19, wherein the orifice is incorporated into a portion of the valve system.

27. (new) A filtering device according to claim 21, wherein the orifice is incorporated into a portion of the valve system.

28. (new) A filtering device according to claim 17, wherein the valve system comprises a pressure spring incorporated into an interior space of the micro-filter element near an axial end face thereof.

29. (new) A filtering device according to claim 19, wherein the valve system comprises a pressure spring incorporated into an interior space of the micro-filter element near an axial end face thereof.

30. (new) A filtering device according to claim 21, wherein the valve system comprises a pressure spring incorporated into an interior space of the micro-filter element near an axial end face thereof.